

bacteria and viruses makes up most of the remainder of the book. Important chapters are devoted to the normal bacterial flora of the body, to diagnostic bacteriology, and to the general principles of virology. The book has been lithographed from typewritten pages, is bound in paper and is, therefore, inexpensive. The reproduction of illustrations is surprisingly good.

This is a first rate book and it should be required reading for medical students. Since it contains no bibliography and a minimum of controversial detail the physician with deeper interests in the subject may wish to own the more elaborate standard texts for reference.

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CULTURAL DIFFERENCE AND MEDICAL CARE—The Case of the Spanish-Speaking People of the Southwest. Lyle Saunders, Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and Public Health (Sociology), University of Colorado School of Medicine. Russell Sage Foundation, 505 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y., 1954. 317 pages, \$4.50.

Professor Saunders has written an exceedingly useful and much needed volume on the social structure and folklore of the Spanish-speaking people of the southwestern part of the United States, which includes California, Arizona, New Mexico, southern Colorado and Texas. All persons interested in social welfare among Latin American peoples and the dispensing of medical services to them will find this book extremely valuable. Professor Saunders is a sociologist whose point of view is vital and dynamic, and whose data are derived from basic anthropologic information concerning the peoples under discussion. The concept of race and color of the Spanish-speaking peoples is given with great understanding and clarity. The cultural development and evolution of the rapidly vanishing folklore is also given clarifying light.

For the social welfare worker and the physician alike the origin of superstition and its significance in the attitude of the Spanish-speaking people toward medical services is fully explored. It is apparent from Professor Saunders' study that there is extant a great social revolution among these people and that in time they will be liberated from the class of the underprivileged in direct proportion to their acquisition of our culture and emancipation from the unfounded attitudes of the Anglo-Saxons.

Appended to the volume is a valuable section on notes to each of the six chapters which are so well organized that they may be read alone without hampering the basic text. A very fine appendix on the demographic characteristics of the Spanish-speaking people of the Southwest is available for all who wish to pursue the problem in a more objective fashion. Lastly there is a revealing note on the subject of "witches and witchcraft" without a knowledge of which it would be exceedingly difficult to understand these interesting people.

The book is highly recommended for physicians, social welfare workers and administrators of medical care in the southwest United States.

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HEART—A Physiologic and Clinical Study of Cardio-Vascular Diseases—2nd Edition. Aldo A. Luisada, M.D., Associate Professor and Director, Division of Cardiology, Chicago Medical School. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1954. 680 pages, 312 figures, \$15.00.

Eight years have passed since the first edition of this well-known book. Many chapters have been rewritten and three have been added including one on cardiovascular syphilis (one page). Classification is more on an anatomic (e.g. valvular defects of the left heart) than the usual etiologic basis, but the author uses a dynamic approach to his

material. His interest in graphic methods is well recognized; the chapter on technical study is lengthy and graphic representation is extensively employed. Illustrations are numerous and excellent. The bibliography is extensive, particularly as regards the foreign literature. The volume presents a fairly complete but not exhaustive treatise on cardiovascular disease. This book ranks among the best of the cardiology texts and is of interest alike to the medical student, practitioner and cardiologist.

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SURGICAL TREATMENT OF CANCER OF THE CERVIX. Edited by Joe V. Meigs, M.D., Clinical Professor of Gynecology, Harvard Medical School. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1954. 462 pages, \$12.00.

This volume is the work of 23 contributors, including seven from foreign countries. An introductory chapter by the editor touches briefly upon many phases of the cervical cancer problem, and runs the gamut from a strange etiologic suggestion to a brief warning about the dangers of sulfa drugs and antibiotics. The next hundred pages are taken up by descriptions of pelvic anatomy, somewhat more than half the space being devoted to duplicate discussions, by two gynecologists, of pelvic lymph nodes and channels. Much of the material on nodes has been published elsewhere and might profitably have been pruned appreciably for inclusion in this volume.

After a brief review of TeLinde's extended hysterectomy for preinvasive carcinoma, one comes to the real meat of this book—a description of radical hysterectomy with bilateral dissection of the pelvic lymph nodes. The editor's excellent, detailed, and well illustrated descriptions of his own technique is sandwiched between two other shorter and less informative chapters on similar operative procedures used by others both here and in Europe to effect radical abdominal hysterectomy.

For reasons which are not obvious, three contributors from foreign clinics were asked to submit descriptions of the Schauta vaginal hysterectomy. This seems to give undue emphasis to a procedure seldom used in this country, owing largely to the impossibility of accomplishing removal of lymph nodes by the vaginal route. But in case the reader wants to find out how to tackle the nodes separately, the late Ira Nathanson has restated his method of retroperitoneal node dissection, and Morton has described a transabdominal approach to the nodes (Traussig's operation).

More than a hundred pages are given over to exenteration operations, with three different descriptions of total exenteration, and then separate discussions of resection of the anterior pelvic organs as well as the posterior pelvic organs. Finally, there are two short sections about the handling of locally recurrent lesions by fulguration and by excision of additional portions of vagina, a brief report on the use of the gracilis muscle to close fistulae, and a urologist's views on urinary tract complications following radical pelvic surgery.

While this book contains a tremendous amount of technical information, none of it really new, it will be used to the full by relatively few physicians, since the opportunities to apply these techniques to large numbers of patients are distinctly limited. But it may serve a useful purpose if, as its editor hopes, it impresses surgeons generally with the need for genuine radicalism in dealing with carcinoma of the cervix and thus discourages the casual operator from attempting less than effective measures in the face of this serious disease.

The typography is excellent and for the most part the illustrations are nicely reproduced. In the chapter on pelvic blood vessels some of the drawings have been reduced so much it is difficult for a presbyopic reader to discern details without the aid of a magnifying lens.